

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1867

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 8513

DEPARTMENT FOR ARA/AND/P - CLEVELAND FULLER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PE

SUBJECT: UPI DESPATCH ON "CUBANS IN PERU"

1. FOLLOWING THIS AFTERNOON'S MEETING ON MARCONA EXPROPRIATION, FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA PUENTE TOOK UNDER SECRETARY MAW AND AMBASSADOR DEAN ASIDE TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN OVER A CABLE WHICH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD JUST RECEIVED FROM THE PERUVIAN EMBASSY IN SANTIAGO REPORTING THE SIGNIFICANT REPLAY BY SANTIAGO NEWSPAPERS, EL MERCURIO AND LA TERCEIRA, OF A UPI DESPATCH DATED WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 17 QUOTING FROM AN ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN "THE DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS DAILY" PUBLISHED IN WASHINGTON. THIS ARTICLE REPORTED THE PRESENCE OF 3,500 CUBANS IN PERU WHO ALLEGEDLY CAME HERE VIA PANAMA TO TRAIN AIR FORCE PERSONNEL IN THE USE OF SOVIET AIRCRAFT, AND ALSO TO KEEP THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ FROM MOVING TO THE RIGHT. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, U.S. INTELLIGENCE SOURCES HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT TO COMMENT ABOUT THIS REPORT.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA PUENTE SAID THAT HE AND THE PRIME MINISTER DID NOT TAKE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ARTICLE SERIOUSLY BUT THEY ARE CONCERNED

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ABOUT THE IMPACT THIS ARTICLE COULD PRODUCE IN CHILE,

WHERE IT REPORTEDLY IS GETTING SIGNIFICANT PLAY, PARTICULARLY AT THIS TIME OF CHILE'S NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS. FOR THIS REASON, HE SAID HE HAD INSTRUCTED HIS AMBASSADOR IN SANTIAGO TO ASSURE THE CHILEAN AUTHORITIES THAT THE REPORT WAS UNFOUNDED AND REQUESTED FROM US ANY INFORMATION WE COULD GIVE HIM ABOUT THE CREDENTIALS OF THE "DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS DAILY", AS WELL AS THE STATEMENT THAT U.S. INTELLIGENCE SOURCES HAD BEEN ASKED NOT TO COMMENT ON THE REPORT. HE WAS LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO USE TO ALLAY ANY FEARS THE REPORT MIGHT CREATE IN THE MIND OF HIS CHILEAN NEIGHBORS.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION ON THESE QUESTIONS THE DEPARTMENT MAY DEVELOP AND, OF COURSE, ANY ASSISTANCE WE CAN OFFER TO PLACE THIS REPORT IN PERSPECTIVE IN WASHINGTON CIRCLES. DEAN

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